

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE  
COUNCIL, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE  
INTERIOR, UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,

Defendants.

18 Civ. 650 (OTW)

**STIPULATION AND ORDER OF  
SETTLEMENT AND DISMISSAL**

WHEREAS Plaintiff Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (“Plaintiff”), filed this suit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552, seeking among other things the release of certain information by Defendant United States Department of the Interior (“DOI”), in connection with two earlier administrative requests, Nos. OS-2017-01247, OS-2018-00232, for the same information (the “FOIA requests”);

WHEREAS DOI released certain documents to Plaintiff in accordance with an agreed-upon production schedule;

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between the parties, as follows:

1. Plaintiff hereby releases and discharges DOI and the United States of America, including its agencies, departments, officers, employees, servants, and agents, from any and all claims and causes of action that Plaintiff asserted, or could have asserted, in this litigation arising out of the FOIA requests.

2. DOI shall pay to Plaintiff the sum of THIRTEEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR DOLLARS and SEVENTEEN CENTS (\$13,734.17) in attorneys’

fees and litigation costs, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E), which sum Plaintiff agrees to accept as full payment of any attorneys' fees and costs Plaintiff has incurred or will incur in this action for services arising out of the FOIA requests, performed up to the date of this Stipulation and Order.

3. All claims against DOI are hereby dismissed with prejudice and without costs or fees other than as provided in paragraph 2 of this Stipulation and Order, provided that the Court shall retain jurisdiction over any issues that may arise relating to this Stipulation and Order.


4. Nothing in this Stipulation and Order shall constitute an admission that the DOI or the United States are liable for any attorneys' fees or litigation costs, or that Plaintiff "substantially prevailed" in this action under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E), or is entitled to or eligible for any attorneys' fees or litigation costs. This Stipulation and Order is entered into by the parties solely for the purpose of compromising disputed claims in this case and avoiding the expenses and risks of further litigation concerning Plaintiff's claims, including claims for attorneys' fees and litigation costs. This Stipulation and Order is non-precedential with respect to any other proceeding involving the parties, including, but not limited to, any other FOIA action or administrative proceeding, and shall have no effect or bearing on any pending or future request for records made by Plaintiff under FOIA.

5. The parties understand and agree that this Stipulation and Order contains the entire agreement between them, and that no statements, representations, promises, agreements, or negotiations, oral or otherwise, between the parties or their counsel that are not included herein shall be of any force or effect.

6. The parties understand and agree that this Stipulation may be signed in counterparts, each of which constitutes an original and all of which constitute one and the same


Stipulation. Facsimiles and/or PDFs of signatures shall have the same force and effect as original signatures and constitute acceptable, binding signatures for purposes of the Stipulation.

Dated: San Francisco, California  
June 9, 2023

  
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*Attorney for Plaintiff NRDC*

Dated: New York, New York  
June 12, 2023

DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York  
*Attorney for the United States  
Department of the Interior*

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY J. SUN  
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SO ORDERED:

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THE HONORABLE ONA T. WANG  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE